

Panhandle Health District
FY2013 Building Permit Fee Adjustment Proposal
March 20, 2012

- Annual review of fees as we start budget preparation
- Septic Program is our largest Environmental Health area
- At the beginning of FY11--July 1, 2010, labor cost tracking was put in place to determine the actual cost of separate program elements.
- Current septic permit fees cover 90% of our costs.
- However non-septic permit fees only cover 16% of related work
- The non-septic permit related function we spend the most time on is in review of Building Permits or Building Locator Permits. Last year we spent nearly 900 hours of our Environmental Health Specialist time and countless support staff hours processing 404 requests. Majority in Bonner (232) and Kootenai (152) counties.
- Why review of building permits/building locator permits? Improper placement of structures that do not affect septic flow can seriously damage the installed tank and drainfield or impact the drainfield replacement area.
- At the beginning of FY11 we established fees for building permit reviews at \$25 for office review and \$150 if a field visit is necessary. 93% of the reviews were conducted in the office by use of our detailed records or with the assistance of the county planning departments.
- The current fees were set without detailed data on actual cost. We now have that data and our actual costs are \$195 for an office review and \$425 if a field visit is required.
- The one other health district that sets its fees based on costs charges \$140 and \$400.
- The recommendation to the Board of Health is to consider increasing the fees for building permit review to \$125 for office and \$300 for field. This fee would cover 65% of our projected costs and generate an additional \$42,000 in annual fee revenue.
- The public hearing on the fee increase will be held at the April 26, 2012, Board of Health meeting scheduled to start at 12:30 in our Hayden office.
- If anyone has questions please contact Dale Peck at 208-415-5210.